

My name is Larry Biondi. I'm the Advocacy Coordinator at Progress Center for Independent Living in Forest Park. More importantly, I'm a consumer of the state's Department of Human Service Home Services Program. I'd like thank the Health, and Medicine Policy for holding this public hearing on the 1115c Waiver.

I'm excited that the state of Illinois is applying for the 1115. It will eliminate the silo's that exists in this state as you know silo's only do injustice to the disability community. Silo's only pit disability groups against each other, fighting to get their fair share of of the state's budgetary pie for their programs.

But I've got concerns about this new Waiver Program. First, the state's moving very fast in implementing this waiver with out consumers' input. Providers and home care agencies heavily the input from consumers. My main concern is the lack of consumer Control that the 1115 Waiver will have. Consumer control means a person with a disability, like me, having the maximum control of their lives. Under this waiver, will I be able to continue to recruit, hire and fire my own Personal Assistants? I read part of the summary of how the waiver program will work. Parts of it contains Medical Model terminology, such as "patient," and "coordinated care." I've been an advocate for people with disabilities for over 20 years, and the past 3 years there's been an erosion of consumer control." Sadly, Consumer Control has yielded to the Medical Model. Any one of you in this auditorium knows what I'm talking about looking at the state's new Integrated Care Program Illinois implemented 2 years ago.

In conclusion, we need more input from the consumers. We can work with the state on improving the 1115 Waiver program.

Sincerely,

Larry Biondi

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